

# St David's Church in Wales Primary School



## Policy for Spiritual Development

To smell the earth  
To taste the rain  
To touch the wind  
To see things grow  
To hear the sunrise and night fall  
To care.

# **St. David's Church in Wales Primary School**

## **Policy for Spiritual Development**

### **What is spirituality?**

The word spirituality comes from a word meaning "breath". Human beings are spiritual because the breath of God is within them. Spirituality is about **how we experience and relate to God.**

### **Why is spirituality important?**

Spirituality is not an add-on extra. It is there already, a part of being human. Spirituality is a piece in the jigsaw of life, and if we do not see it the picture will not make sense.

### **Is spirituality the same as religious education?**

Religion and spirituality are related, but they are not the same thing. Children's spirituality is not limited to talking about God, using special language, or going to church. Simple things like the sight of snow, being cuddled, or gazing up into the night sky, can be spiritual events. Everyday experiences, and concerns about other people and the planet, can lead naturally to the wonder and questioning which are doors to spirituality.

### **What can we do to help our children grow spiritually?**

Nurturing a child's spiritual development means giving them:

- ❖ **Time** to think about themselves, other people and the world.

- ❖ **Space** to enjoy new experiences.
- ❖ **Security** so that they feel able to question and explore.
- ❖ **Affirmation** that their thoughts about God, life and the universe are interesting and important.

At St. David's we understand that Spiritual development relates to our way of being in the world; to Christian values for life and relationships; to our own creativity (as this is linked with the creative world of God) and to our use of the gifts we have. It relates to our recognition and promotion of beauty, goodness and truth in our world, to our regard for all that is good in humankind and to our recognition of the glory and wonder of God's creation.

We believe that **Spiritual development** encompasses:

- ❖ A sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- ❖ A sense of transience and change.
- ❖ A sense of pattern, sequence, order, purpose.
- ❖ An awareness that there is often more than meets the eye - a sense of transcendence.
- ❖ A sense of the quality of silence, reflection; the ability to listen; concentrated attention.
- ❖ A sense of self worth.
- ❖ A sense of the worth of others.
- ❖ A sense of community - its demands, values, rituals, celebrations.
- ❖ A sense of the joy of life, achievement, play.
- ❖ An awareness of limitation, frustration, loss, the darker side of life.
- ❖ An awareness of the natural world: darkness, light, water, wind, earth etc.: its capacity to point beyond itself.
- ❖ A sense of the human capacity for choice, decision, responsibility.

We aim to develop this through the following skills:

- ❖ An ability to listen.
- ❖ An ability to be still and aware.
- ❖ An ability to reflect.
- ❖ An ability to feel sympathetically for and with others
- ❖ An ability to interpret and evaluate experience.
- ❖ An ability to cope with paradox and contradiction.

We achieve this through the way we put our Mission Statement into practice, through our school aims and through our approach to teaching the whole curriculum. Each classroom has a reflective area, which pupils are encouraged to use to encounter and develop their relationship with God.

### **Communicating the Policy**

A copy of this policy is distributed to all teaching staff and teaching assistants and is available to all members of the Governing Body.

### **Evaluation and Review**

The effectiveness of this policy is monitored by the spirituality co-ordinator and governor responsible for Religious Education. The policy is subject to review (see dates below) by the Governing Body.

## Monitoring and Review

Author	C. Shirley
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Adopted by Governing Body on	
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Head teacher's signature and date	
Chair of Governor's signature and date	